



Shoshone Field Office

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Shoshone Special Places Summary Table

The Unique Public Lands and Resources of the Shoshone Field Office

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Map # / Name	Description	Location	Facilities/ Fees
1) Black Butte	Black Butte is a volcanic crater and major landform near Shoshone, Idaho. The shield volcano erupted about 10,000 years ago and is a striking example of the recent volcanic history of the Snake River Plain. Rock cairns mark the summit approach, which is short but challenging. Hikers must traverse a half-mile of rugged lava to gain the dramatic views from the Crater's rim.	About 16 miles north of Shoshone on Hwy. 75. The shortest access road approaches the Butte from the west, but the route is primitive and requires high-clearance vehicles. A better road approaches the Butte from the east but involves a longer hike to reach the summit. Use this map to help locate the access routes.	None
2) Black Magic Canyon	During the last 10,000 years, the Big Wood River has carved a narrow canyon of exquisite, swirling rock sculptures into the surrounding black basalt. The 4 mile section of complex carvings and potholes is one of the best and most beautiful examples of eroded river bedrock in the United States.	About 14 miles north of Shoshone on Hwy. 75. Secondary paved and graded roads provide access to the river canyon. The formations are best accessed during summer months when the river flow is diverted for irrigation. Contact the Shoshone field office for more information on visiting Black Magic Canyon.	None

3) <u>Craters of the Moon Preserve and National Monument</u>	The monument is a 715,000 acres geologic wonderland. Its central feature is the Great Rift, a 62-mile long crack in the earth's crust. The Great Rift is the source of a remarkably preserved volcanic landscape with an array of exceptional features. Craters, cinder coves, lava tubes, deep cracks, and vast lava fields form a strangely beautiful volcanic sea on central Idaho's Snake River Plain. The Monument is jointly managed by the BLM and National Park Service.	The visitor center is located approximately 18 miles southwest of Arco on Hwy. 20 and 50 miles northeast of Shoshone on Hwy. 26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed campground with RV hookups. • Restrooms • Drinking water • Visitor Center • 7 mile scenic loop drive with hiking paths and interpretive trails
4) <u>Gooding City of Rocks</u>	City of Rocks is an area of unusual and highly scenic rock formations. Erosion has carved fascinating spires and hoodoos from the underlying deposits of solidified volcanic ash. Excellent hiking, sightseeing and solitude.	About 15 miles north of Gooding on Hwy. 46, turn west at the BLM sign for City of Rocks. Follow the signs and travel about 7.5 miles on a generally well-maintained dirt road, which is suitable for passenger vehicles if conditions are dry.	None
5) <u>Little City of Rocks</u>	Similar rock formations, but a smaller area and easier to access than Gooding City of Rocks. A main valley trail provides easy walking opportunities while side drainages offer more challenging hiking.	About 7 miles north of Gooding on Hwy. 46, turn west at the BLM sign for Little City of Rocks. A short, dirt spur road leads to small parking area.	None
6) <u>Oregon Trail Goodale's Cutoff</u>	Goodale's Cutoff was a 230 mile long northern alternate to the main Oregon Trail. The main Trail followed the Snake River across southern Idaho. After 1863, most emigrants used Goodale's Cutoff in an effort to avoid hostilities with American Indians, which were escalating along the main	Goodale's Cutoff traverses the northern portion of the Shoshone Field Office and excellent trail remnants are visible in several locations. A good place to see the route is along Highway 20/26/93, between Craters of the Moon National Monument and Carey. It winds through the northern end of the monument out of sight of the road and	None

	Trail.	intersects the highway 3.5 miles west of the visitor center. Contact Craters of the Moon or the Shoshone Field Office for more information.	
7) <u>Cave Resources</u>	The lava flows that bubbled across the Snake River Plain created numerous cave systems. Today, the Shoshone Field Office manages one of the highest concentrations of cave resources in the United States. The caves are highly valued by spelunkers for recreation and exploration. They also harbor plant and wildlife resources of important scientific value.	Access to some caves is regulated by gating to protect recreationists and the underground resource. Contact the Shoshone Field Office for more information regarding cave access and permit requirements.	None

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